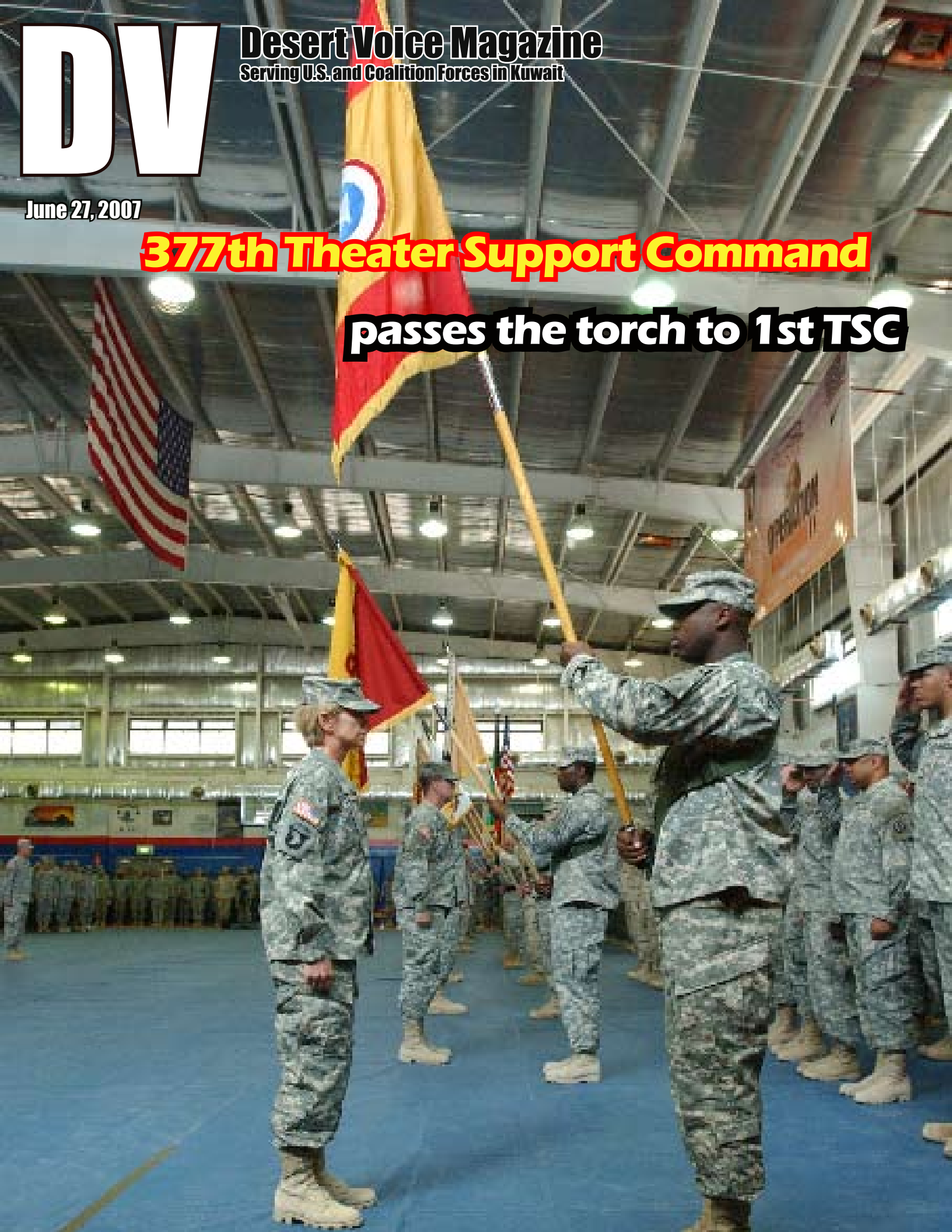


DV

Desert Voice Magazine
Serving U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait

June 27, 2007

377th Theater Support Command **passes the torch to 1st TSC**



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On the cover

1st Theater Support Command takes the reins from the 377th Theater Support Command.

Photo by Giancarlo Casem

Summer Bicycle Safety



- Drive near the curb in the same direction as traffic. Always drive single file.
- Competing with high speed, heavy traffic is dangerous. Look for safer, less travelled routes.
- Stunting or clowning on bicycles can result in serious injury.
- Be alert to surface conditions and traffic all around you. Road hazards such as rocks, potholes, glass, and other debris can cause a bicyclist to lose control.
- Bicyclists must make themselves and their bikes more visible. Wear brightly colored clothing. A reflective vest or tape sewn on clothing makes you far more visible at night.
- Never ride at dusk or night unless your bicycle has a white headlight or reflectors and a red tail light or reflector in the back. The larger the reflector the more visible you are.
- Know traffic laws and signals.



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Magazine

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Working together

Third Army conduct military exchange with Central Asian Partner

Staff Sgt. Alex Licea Third Army/USARCENT Public Affairs

Third Army/U.S. Army Central hosted a delegation of soldiers from the Turkmenistan National Army for an information exchange at Fort Gordon, Ga. June 15-18. The exchange between the two armies is part of a week-long trip where Turkmenistan medical soldiers received an inside look at the U.S. military's largest peacetime medical exercise "Golden Medic."

"Golden Medic" is a week-long joint exercise that runs Army and Air Force medical professionals through medical scenarios which they may face in a combat environment. Their medical skills training is in areas that include casualty movement, C-17 and helicopter airframes, medical equipment training and mortuary affairs.

During this exercise, the Turkmenistan soldiers received an up-close look at how the U.S. Army conducts health care in a real-world environment by observing these realistic drills.

The exercise involved more than 3,500 Army and Air Force personnel and is conducted every year at Fort Gordon, Ga.

While Turkmenistan's military medical program and procedures are similar to the U.S., its current capability is to treat its military first while only treating its local civilians in times of extreme crisis or national disaster.

For one officer, the exchange between the two nations was very profound, both as a medical professional and as a soldier.

"It is interesting to get to know each other and build this relationship," said Turkmen Col. Allaberdi Jumayev, the chief of medical directorate. "I

saw a lot of new equipment and medical kits that we [in Turkmenistan] have a lot of interest in."

The six visiting soldiers included senior Turkmenistan medical officials from both its Ministry of Defense and State Border Service.

The visit is part of the continued effort led by Third Army/USARCENT's

civil-military affairs Theater Security Cooperation program that hosts foreign soldiers and sends U.S. Soldiers to participating countries in the Third Army area of responsibility to interface and exchange ideas with their counterparts.

"The TSC program allows USARCENT to coordinate military to military exchanges with our partner countries," said 1st Lt. Erin Pendleton, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan country desk officer assigned to the USARCENT CIMA section. "This exchange is a great way to build a relationship with nations such as Turkmenistan."

Every year Third Army/USARCENT, based in Atlanta, conducts hundreds of Theater Security Cooperation activities throughout 24 countries in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, which spans the Horn of Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. The program's base is to enhance or establish relationships with regional national militaries, and promotes bilateral and multilateral interoperability, strategic access and operational basing.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alex Licea

Air Force Lt. Col. Jennette "JZ" Zmaeff speaks with the Turkmenistan delegation during an aerial medical evacuation at Fort Gordon, Ga., June 16.

With these programs, Third Army helps its partner nations strengthen their defense relationships and improve their ability to effectively participate in coalition operations.

Maj. John White, Third Army/USARCENT medical plans officer, said for young democratic nations such as Turkmenistan, these type of events build lasting relationships between the two growing allies.

"Our program is to discuss and interact with each other," said White. "We talk to each other about things that will impact the future of both combat and regular care. This is important because we are still trying to learn from each other."

Turkmenistan seceded from the Soviet Union in 1991. It borders Afghanistan to the southeast, Iran to the southwest, Uzbekistan to the northeast and Kazakhstan to the northwest. It is also east of the Caspian Sea.

The exchange continued through June 20 when the delegation visiting key medical facilities and the Office of the Surgeon General in Washington, D.C.

Distinguished Se

Third Army Soldier gets recogn

Staff Sgt. Rebba Critser
Third Army/U.S. Army Central
Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, commanding general of Third Army/U.S. Army Central, and Georgia's Murray County is rolling out the red carpet for its most highly decorated World War II vet with the recognition he deserves. The residents of Murray County and Whitcomb met at the Murray County Courthouse in Chatsworth, Ga., to proclaim June 15 as Glenn Martin Day and recognize him for valor during World War II.

"I came here to honor a Soldier, a Third Army Soldier from 1944 who answered the call of his country," Whitcomb said. "It is appropriate that the City of Chatsworth honor the memory of Private Glenn Martin, one of your own, a hero, one of only 291 Soldiers of the Third Army during World War II to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, by declaring this day Glenn Martin Day." Sixty-three years ago, while serving with Company C, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, Third Army, on June 8, 1944, near Chau De Fontenay, France, Pvt. Glenn Martin's company found themselves cut off from friendly forces by an infiltrating enemy.

According to Robert Babcock, a Vietnam veteran with the 22nd and author of "War Stories - Utah Beach to Pleiku," and Chaplain Bill Boice's "History for the 22nd Infantry Regiment in WWII," this attack took place two days after D-Day and Lt. John Ward, a forward observer, realized the only way to ward off the enemy was to call for artillery on his own position. After Ward notified his



Photos by Staff Sgt. Rebba Critser

(Above) Alexis Martin, 9, looks at the Distinguished Service Cross presented posthumously to her grandfather by Third Army/U.S. Army Central Commanding General Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb June 15, 2007, in Chatsworth, Ga. (Below) Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb talks to local veterans in Chatsworth, Ga., about their war experiences

men, Martin, and a few others, elected to stay and fight. Shrapnel from the firefight hit the lieutenant and, ignoring the impending dangers, Martin carried Ward to safety. This act of selfless service earned Martin the Distinguished Service Cross, second only to the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for heroism. "He likely didn't have any lofty thoughts of defending democracy or fighting tyranny that day, but I suspect he understood that he was part of something

larger than himself," Whitcomb said. "It wouldn't surprise me that he did that [save a life]," said William Leonard, Martin's childhood friend. "This is the highest award [Distinguished Service Cross] given to anyone in Murray County and only a few of them in the State of Georgia. He had that much courage ... that



Service Cross

honored for heroism 63 years ago



much good in him.”

Leonard and Martin grew up together and were both drafted into the Army to fight in World War II. However, both went to different parts of the world – Leonard to the Pacific and Martin to Europe.

“We never knew what his awards were for,” Leonard said. “He didn’t want to talk about it.”

Martin died in January this year from heart failure. His nieces and nephew who attended the ceremony survive him. He was formally presented the decoration in a small, private ceremony last year.

“I didn’t know Mr. Martin, but I have known some men like him,” Whitcomb said. “Ordinary men who find themselves in extraordinary circumstances, in the worst of conditions, doing what our nation has asked them to do ... and then doing something more.”

According to another childhood friend,



Whitcomb, presents the Distinguished Service Cross to (from left) Tommy Martin, Glenda Stephenson and Wanda Witt. Pvt. Martin, a farmhand from Chatsworth, saved the life of another Soldier two days after D-Day ignoring the incoming fire to his position. His family and friends gathered in front of the Murray County Courthouse to celebrate his achievements.

Zeke Hufstetler, Martin was the son of a disabled World War I veteran. Martin was reared on a farm and worked at the local saw mill.

Martin was drafted into the Army in November 1942 as a wireman in the Signal Corps. The winter of his heroic effort, he developed frostbite and was sent home to Georgia with an honorable discharge.

Since he did not discuss his service

in the military, very few in Murray County were aware of the extent of his accolades.

Vietnam Veteran Bruce Kendrick said, “A couple of years ago, a few of us local vets started talking about Glenn Martin and his accomplishments in World War II.”

Curiosity led Kendrick to start an investigation of Martin’s achievements. With the help of Georgia Congressman Nathan Deal, they were able to discover the extent of Martin’s heroism through old Department of Defense personnel records.

He’s a farm kid from Chatsworth, Georgia,” Kendrick said. “And he received the Distinguished Service Cross!”

Kendrick said what made this more remarkable was that Martin “wasn’t pretentious and didn’t brag

about it.”

“I can’t tell you what motivated Private Glenn Martin to do what he did that Thursday 63 years and one week ago,” Whitcomb said. “Perhaps no one can. I can tell you that because of him, and because of millions like him who served during World War II, tyranny was defeated and that the world is a better place.”

377th Theater Support Command passes the torch

SpC. Giancarlo Casem
Desert Voice staff writer

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait -- Hundreds of servicemembers were in attendance to watch the transfer of authority ceremony between the outgoing 377th Theater Support Command and the incoming 1st Theater Sustainment Command at the Zone 1 gym at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June 22.

Also in attendance was Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, Third Army/U.S. Army Central commander. He thanked the 377th TSC for all their hard work.

The troops here in front us, thank you for the magnificent job that you have done, Whitcomb said addressing the servicemembers in formation. "You make it look easy; you get a lot of practice day in, day out."

Whitcomb talked about some of the

highlights of the 377th's tenure here in theater. The 377th TSC moved 1/3 of the Army's brigade combat teams, restating its relevancy. The 377th TSC also moved a tremendous amount of personnel, about the size of the population of Baltimore, Md., he said. Maj. Gen. Thomas Robinson,



Photos by SpC. Giancarlo Casem

Servicemembers of the Third Army/U.S. Army Central stand in formation during a transfer of authority ceremony between outgoing 377th Theater Support Command commander, Maj. Gen. Thomas Robinson, and incoming 1st Theater Sustainment Command commander, Brig. Gen. Kevin Leonard, at the Zone 1 Gym in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June 22.



Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Paul Tuttle

Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, the Third Army/US-ARCENT commander, and other members of the command staff for 377th Theater Support Command and 1st TSC command stand at attention during the Transfer of Authority ceremony June 22.

377th Theater Support Command commanding general, dedicated the transfer of authority ceremony to the servicemembers who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

"I want to dedicate this ceremony today to the Soldiers and Airman who gave their lives this past year in accomplishing our mission," Robinson said. "These men advanced the cause of freedom and will forever remind us that freedom has a price."

He also gave thanks to his troops.

In his speech, Robinson commented on some of the milestones and important dates in the 377th's recent history, from its inception October 1998 to March 2003 during the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 377th TSC has had a continuous presence in the last four years here in Kuwait.

"This rotation has had its own challenges just getting formed with elements of three commands," he said. "It has been interesting to see the dynamics of team building since I first met the combined unit in May 2006, at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. We did form a very effective team."

The 377th TSC served as a force support package unit with an ongoing

Support Command to 1st TSC

support mission to deploy with the Third Army/U.S. Army Central. When the 377th colors were cased and the 1st TSC's colors were uncased, the transfer of authority was completed. The 1st TSC now had the reins.

"First of all I thank you all for attending this transfer of authority ceremony today," said Brig. Gen. Kevin Leonard, 1st Theater Sustainment Command commander. "It is a special day for the Soldiers of the 1st (TSC) Team and marks another milestone in the history of this great command."

Originally activated as the 1st Logistical Command in October, 1950, at Fort McPherson, Ga., it was first deployed to Polters, France in 1951 during the Berlin Crisis. In 1962, the unit returned to the U.S. and was assigned to III Corps, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas.

After redeployment, it deployed once again, this time to Vietnam in April 1965. Its mission was to act as the logistics command and control headquarters for all units in the theater. In 1970, the unit redeployed to Fort Lee, Va., and was redesignated as the 1st Field Army Support Command, it was later redesignated to the 1st Corps Support Command.

In 2006, the 1st COSCOM was redesignated as the theater sustainment command. The 1st TSC currently has Soldiers deployed around the world in Afghanistan, Kuwait, Iraq and Egypt.

"As most of you know, the 1st TSC was created as a theater sustainment command in the best traditions and

history of our military and in its brief existence has established its own traditions and claims to the historical legacy of those that came before us," Leonard said. "The Soldiers standing before you display the maturity and heritage of our forward deployed command. It is our honor to support our fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines throughout the CENTCOM area of responsibility."

As the 377th's command drew to a close, Robinson offered his last words.

"The 377th has been here and, through each rotation, one tenet has held true," he said. "A command is only as good as each trooper in the command. We have the best. Our units have been superb in the many and varied missions they accomplish."

Leonard vowed to maintain the same level proficiency and professionalism displayed by the 377th TSC.

"We see ourselves on the front lines of this struggle and we pledge to do all that is humanly possible to continue the tradition of service this unit has

established in defense of our nation, its people and our heritage," Leonard said. "We will move forward with one mind focused on the mission, one heart willing to serve and one purpose, Patton's Own, Always Forward and Always First."



Photo by Spc. Giancarlo Casem

Command Sgt. Maj. Luiz Lopez, left, and Brig. Gen. Kevin Leonard, both of 1st Theater Support Command, uncased their unit's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony between outgoing Maj. Gen. Thomas Robinson and Leonard, at the Zone 1 Gym, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June 22.

MILITARY MOM AND SERGEANT

Good for the kids, good

Staff Sgt. Mac Metcalfe

Alaskan
National Guard
Public Affairs

Although Command Sgt. Maj. Alan Feaster doesn't remember how he first learned about Karen Buckley and her support program, he does remember first talking to her in Shelby, Miss., last July during train-up for deployment. Buckley had recently established a foundation, Military Mom in Action, to support Soldiers with care packages and she wanted to support Alaska

Army National Guard Soldiers during their deployment to Kuwait.

Feaster was happy for the support but once he reached Kuwait things began taking a slightly different turn. Buckley told Feaster she was receiving a ton of school supplies and toys from donors and asked for his support in finding a way to distribute them. To meet her request, Feaster began developing a distribution network that included an engineering unit in Iraq, a chaplain in Afghanistan and a Kuwaiti sergeant major.

"I thought this was a good opportunity for American Soldiers to show that we are not just authority figures but have another side, an American generosity side,"



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mac Metcalfe

Kuwaiti Sergeant Major Sahib and a female instructor explain a gallery of photographs representing the accomplishments of the Kuwait Department of Disabilities to Command Sgt. Maj. Alan Feaster and Lt. Col. Michael Merritt. Feaster and Merritt are with 3rd Battalion, 297th Infantry, Alaska Army National Guard and the 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery, Arkansas Army National Guard, respectively.

Feaster said.

The school supplies and toys also provide opportunities for Soldiers to interact with the cultures of their host countries, Feaster said. Accordingly, he paid a visit to a Kuwaiti institution for physically and mentally disabled children and young adults in Kuwait City to distribute the school supplies and toys. Feaster was accompanied by Sgt. Major Sahib, a member of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior, who served as a guide and translator. Lt Col. Michael Merritt, commander 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery, Arkansas Army National Guard, also tagged along because he plans on using the same program.

"It's a nice facility, very well run and definitely different

ANT MAJOR TAKE ACTION

for us



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mac Metcalfe

(Above) Kuwaiti officials and American Soldiers meet at an institution for the disabled to distribute educational supplies and toys donated by American citizens.

(Right) Feaster "gets five" from a young lady at an institution for the disabled in Kuwait City. Feaster said that in addition to showing American generosity, the program provides an opportunity for his battalion to interact with the people of Kuwait.

reference to numerous foreign workers that live in Kuwait.

The facility includes a school for mildly disabled students who are capable of holding jobs with government or private agencies. There is also an emphasis on arts and crafts where patients can produce items that can be sold to the public.

"The goal is to prepare them to be part of the community," Sahib said.

Feaster said he will continue to develop the program finding more Soldiers to help distribute the toys and school supplies. "It's good for the kids and good for us," Feaster said.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mac Metcalfe

from an American one. There's a lot more individual attention, one staff member for every individual in there," said Feaster.

Families can drop their children off like at a school or use it like a boarding school, said Khalid Ali Al-Mahdi, the director of the Department of Disabilities, Ministry of Social Affairs. "Everything is free and children from foreign families can come here too," Al-Mahdi said, in

Airmen, Soldiers honor fallen comrade

Senior Airman Andrew Dumbowski
386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

An empty pair of boots placed in front and, just behind, a helmet sat atop the inverted rifle that held his hanging dog tags -- the memorial display stood center stage and served as a focal point for the many Airmen and Soldiers who had come to pay respects to a fellow American whose ultimate sacrifice was honored in a ceremony June 16 in the Zone 1 Chapel at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Airman 1st Class Eric Barnes, with the 424th Medium Truck Detachment, was killed in action June 10 when his vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device. He was driving the lead vehicle of a convoy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

A 16-minute slide show gave those in attendance a glimpse of Barnes' life. As bagpipes played "Amazing Grace," the final few attendees entered the Chapel and signed a guest book.

With every seat taken and the rear of the chapel filled three-deep, more than 750 friends, comrades-in-arms and patriots had filled the room by the

time the ceremony began. After the invocation, Lt. Col. Daryl Cunningham, 586th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, spoke a few words about Barnes.

"Airman Barnes was a remarkable young man and one of the finest Airmen I've had the honor of working with," he said. "His fellow Airmen were, and continue to be, inspired by his example."

"His devotion to the mission and his friends was sincere," added Capt. Robert Sonnenberg, 424th MTD commander. "He dedicated his life to helping others."

Members of Barnes' unit also took time to reflect on the impact he had on their lives.

"He could always make you smile," said Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Sudlow. "My family loved him."

Sergeant Sudlow remembered a time when he came home after Barnes had babysat his two daughters. "The kids told me afterward 'We like him ... he played Barbie with us.' They used to call him their big brother."

"He had such a strong work ethic," said Senior Airman Jency Jackson, a member of Barnes' flight.

Jackson quoted Bravo Flight's motto "... ready to fight, ready to kill, ready to die but never will." Fighting back the tears she said, "You may not be with us in the flesh, but we will never let you die."

Army Chaplain (Capt.) Lyle Shackelford then read messages from friends and family from Barnes' hometown.

"The Angels are at your side," his old baseball coach said ... read Shackelford. "... 'He always led by example,' remembered his former Boy Scout master."

When the messages were finished, Chief Master Sgt. Richard Bunce called roll for Barnes' element.

"Staff Sergeant Hull!"

"Here Chief!"

"Senior Airman Herbert!"

"Here Chief!"

"Senior Airman Sandoval!"

"Here Chief!"

"Airman First Class Barnes!"

"Airman First Class Eric Barnes!"

"Airman First Class Eric M. Barnes!"

A series of three volleys from seven M-16 rifles just outside the Chapel doors were the only reply. A bugler from the Army's Honor Guard played taps, everyone inside stood silently.

A benediction from Shackelford closed the speaking portion of the ceremony.

For more than an hour after the ceremony, attendees stood in line for an opportunity to approach the memorial on stage and pay final respects. Soldiers and Airmen alike whispered prayers, saluted and said goodbye to Barnes.

"Godspeed, Eric," said Captain Sonnenberg.

Barnes was on his second deployment to the 424th MTD from F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo. After his first deployment with ended in 2006, Barnes volunteered for another rotation. He regularly performed the duties of lead vehicle driver.

Barnes, 20, was a Lorain, Ohio native. He is survived by his mother, Shary, and his father, Tom.



Photo by USAF Staff Sgt. Raymond Mills

386th Air Expeditionary Wing Airmen salute a memorial display, June 15, after a ceremony held in honor of Airman 1st Class Eric Barnes, who was killed in action while on a convoy mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Saintsations visit Arifjan



Photo by Pvt. Christopher Grammer

Saintsations cheerleaders put on a show for the servicemembers at the zone six stage at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, June 17, 2007. The first in a series of shows for the troops in Kuwait and Iraq as a part of the 2007 Saintsations Tour.

Hometown Hero

Sgt. Cherica Taylor
CFLCC STB, Admin. Specialist

Sgt. Taylor is responsible in and out-processing Soldiers. She also gets paperwork ready for Soldiers going on pass and R&R leave.

Taylor reveals what she misses most about her home in Midlothian, Va.

"The holidays. They're big around my house. The whole family gathers to celebrate them."



Just One Question...

"How have you adjusted your PT schedule to account for rising temperatures?"



"I do my PT earlier in the day or I go to the gym to do intense cardio."

Capt. Giovanna Cheeks
Portsmouth, Va.
Quartmaster
1-82 Attack Recon Battalion



"I do my PT at night on my own time."

Pvt. Justin Hall
Dallas, Texas
Chemical Operations Specialist
7th Chemical Company



"I work in the morning so I go to the gym at night after work."

Axel Rivera
Clarksville, Tenn.
Mail Clerk
CSA Contractor, 3rd PERSCOM



"I get up early in the morning before the sun comes up and do muscle failure PT."

Spc. Michael Mentins
Westerville, Ohio
Administration Specialist
3rd Personal Command



"I use the gym a lot or I get up early in the morning, that's the only way to handle it."

Capt. Kevin Moore
Santa Rita, Guam
Commander of Medical Task Force
Expeditionary Medical Facility



Photos by Spc. Wes Landrum

What's happening around Kuwait...

(Above) Members of the Camp Arifjan Dance team clap to the music during the Music Festival held at the Activities Center, Camp Arifjan, June 16. Choirs from the Third Army/ USARCENT area of Responsibility gathered to share hymns and show off their musical bravado.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Peachtree
 Road Race 2007
 Atlanta Track Club

Camp Arifjan

PEACHTREE

10K RUN/WALK

4 July
0500 HRS

**Run starts at the
 Zone 1 Fitness Center**

**Register at the
 Z1 or Z6 Fitness Center from
 16 June - 3 July by 1800 hrs**

For more information call 430-1302